



Don Harwin
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRANSFORMATION FOR THE GUNNERY

The Gunnery at Woolloomooloo will undergo a \$5 million transformation as part of the NSW Government's pipeline of projects designed to revitalise the State's arts and cultural venues and kickstart economic recovery.

The Gunnery will be transformed facility with expanded exhibition spaces, more artist-in-residence studios and an improved connection to the local neighbourhood and Sydney Harbour Foreshore.

Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin said the heritage building is an important hub for artists and the community, and the upgrades will deliver a contemporary, more accessible centre for generations to come.

"From a famed artist squat in the 70s and 80s, to the studio space, gallery and home to resident artist organisations in the early 90s, to the cultural landmark it is today, The Gunnery will be transformed once again to an exciting new cultural destination for the people of NSW.

"After a difficult year, arts and culture continues to be a source of inspiration and hope, and the key to our social and economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

"I am delighted to announce the NSW Government's commitment of over \$5 million to this cultural infrastructure project, that will deliver upgraded artist studios, adaptable multi-use spaces, and expanded galleries, as part of a program of work that supports artistic excellence and meets the needs of the community.

"For almost thirty years, Artspace has called The Gunnery home, playing a significant role in transforming the site to the premier cultural destination it is today. Through Artspace, The Gunnery will continue to be an inclusive place of gathering for communities anchored in Woolloomooloo," Mr Harwin said.

Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director at Artspace said the major investment in The Gunnery will ensure the legacy of the landmark building as the destination for visual arts in NSW.

"This has been an immensely challenging year for the arts and cultural sector, and I am extremely grateful for the NSW Government's support and recognition of the

critical role that art plays in imagining new futures.

“This timely support will see the transformation of Artspace in The Gunnery into a more agile and resilient 21st century centre for innovation in contemporary art through expanded exhibitions, enhanced spaces for learning and education, digital connectivity, commissioning and studio practice,” Ms Glass-Kantor said.

This project is supported through the NSW Government’s \$120 million in the State Budget to improve the accessibility, sustainability and functionality of the State’s arts and cultural venues.

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